

Faunitaxys

*Revue de Faunistique, Taxonomie et Systématique
morphologique et moléculaire*



Volume 13
Numéro 61

Novembre 2025

ISSN (Print) : 2269 - 6016
ISSN (Online) : 2970 - 4960
Dépôt légal : Novembre 2025

Faunitaxys

*Revue de Faunistique, Taxonomie et Systématique
morphologique et moléculaire*

ZooBank : <https://zoobank.org/79A36B2E-F645-4F9A-AE2B-ED32CE6771CC>

Directeur de la publication, rédacteur, conception graphique et PAO:

Lionel Delaunay

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La parution de *Faunitaxys* est apériodique

Faunitaxys est indexé dans / *Faunitaxys* is indexed in:

- **Zoological Record**

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Imprimée sur les presses de SPEED COPIE, 6, rue Tréfilerie, F- 42100 Saint-Etienne

Imprimé le 24 11 2025

The remarkable variability of the genus *Betaburmesebuthus* Lourenço, 2015 from Burmite; comments on newly confirmed morphological characters and description of a new species (Scorpiones: Palaeoburmesebuthidae)

WILSON R. LOURENÇO (1,*) & JÜRGEN VELTEN (2)

(1) Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Sorbonne Universités, Institut de Systématique, Evolution, Biodiversité (ISYEB), UMR7205-CNRS, MNHN, UPMC, EPHE, CP 53, 57 rue Cuvier, 75005 Paris, France.

- E-mail : wilson.lourenco@mnhn.fr - wilson.lourenco48@gmail.com

- ZooBank : <https://zoobank.org/58448BD6-79D7-46CE-AFDD-91EFF2B7D4EF> – Orcid : <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2386-363X>

(2) Uhlandstr 9 a, 67292 Kirchheimbolanden, Germany.

- ZooBank : <https://zoobank.org/F7A6D8F4-5139-4A78-BC39-AB21BA60FE1C>

* Correspondence.

Keywords:

Scorpiones;
Betaburmesebuthus;
petersi;
fossil;
new species;
description;
diversity;
Burmite.

Abstract. – One more new species is described for the genus *Betaburmesebuthus* Lourenço, 2015, confirming this genus as probably the most speciose among those found in Early Cretaceous Burmite. The studied specimen is extremely well preserved, allowing a detailed observation of some characters, such as the cheliceral dentition, which was unclearly defined until now.

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2025. – The remarkable variability of the genus *Betaburmesebuthus* Lourenço, 2015 from Burmite; comments on newly confirmed morphological characters and description of a new species (Scorpiones: Palaeoburmesebuthidae). *Faunitaxys*, 13(61): 1 – 7.

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.57800/faunitaxys-13\(61\)](https://doi.org/10.57800/faunitaxys-13(61))

ZooBank: <https://zoobank.org/2F00B6DF-CCD8-4165-A390-FE8D0FF797ED>

Received: 12/11/2025 – Revised: 17/11/2025 – Accepted: 18/11/2025

Introduction

In several previous publications, attention was focused on the fact that among the scorpion found and described from the Early Cretaceous amber of Myanmar (or Burmite), those belonging to the family Palaeoburmesebuthidae appeared as one of the most, if not the most common elements present within this fauna (Lourenço, 2002, 2015, 2023; Lourenço & Velten, 2024a, 2025a,b). Even more evident, is the fact that the most frequently found species are those belonging to the genus *Betaburmesebuthus* Lourenço, 2015 (Lourenço, 2015; Lourenço & Velten, 2023a, 2024, 2025b), confirming the very speciose characteristics of this genus. Consequently, as already expressed before (Lourenço, 2023; Lourenço & Velten, 2023), the multiplication of new descriptions, especially when produced by weakly-qualified ‘scorpion taxonomists’, can, clearly cause an addition of problems for future identifications. Furthermore, new descriptions require to be based on specimens presenting a high quality of preservation, in which a majority of characters can be observed. In this contribution a new species of *Betaburmesebuthus* is described, based precisely on these requirements. Some characters, weakly defined until now are clearly redefined. The remarkable scorpion diversity in the Burmese amber-producing forests is once again confirmed (Lourenço, 2023).

Material and methods

The specimen investigated, most certainly a pre-adult male, is preserved in a very clear block of pale-yellow amber, measuring 26.6 x 16 x 2.5 mm. Only very minor vegetal debris are observed, together

with some bubbles, allowing the observation of a majority of the characters. The schematic drawings provided are interpretations of what was observable. Illustrations and measurements were produced with the aid of a Wild M5 stereomicroscope equipped with a drawing tube and an ocular micrometre. Measurements follow Stahnke (1970) and are given in mm. Trichobothrial notations follow Vachon (1974). Other morphological terminologies mostly follow Hjelle (1990). Trichobothria are definitely recorded only when their bothria (areoles) could be observed. Other trichobothria may be suggested by the presence of transverse hairs.

Taxonomic treatment

Superfamily **Buthoidea** C. L. Koch, 1837

Family **Palaeoburmesebuthidae** Lourenço, 2015

Genus *Betaburmesebuthus* Lourenço, 2015

Betaburmesebuthus petersi Lourenço sp. n.

(Fig. 1-15)

ZooBank: <https://zoobank.org/85BF3036-06B9-4CBB-A551-5DA0D7076CF1>

Holotype. A juvenile, or possible pre-adult; sex; most certainly a male.

Diagnosis for the new species. – General morphology similar to that of other species of the genus *Betaburmesebuthus* Lourenço, 2015, but showing more similarities with *Palaeoburmesebuthus fleissneri* Lourenço, 2016. The following combination of characters can be used to diagnose the new species. Sternum sub-pentagonal. Tergites with three carinae, but the laterals are rather inconspicuous; granulation moderately to weakly marked. Sternites with small slightly slit-like

Reviewer: Eric Ythier (BYG Taxa, France) - ZooBank: <https://zoobank.org/06FD0852-A88E-49E5-B8E6-E1494B86C4E1>



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spiracles. Metasomal segments I and II with 10 carinae; III-IV with 8 carinae; V with 5 carinae; setation on all metasomal segments weakly marked. Telson granular, with at least 3 lateral carinae; subaculear tubercle absent. Pectines large and long, with 18-19 teeth. Tibial spurs absent from legs III and extremely reduced on IV; pedal spurs weakly to moderately marked on legs III-IV. Trichobothrial pattern can be globally observed, with elements clearly fitting those of extant buthid type A (Vachon, 1974). Femur with 5 dorsal, 2 external and 4 internal trichobothria disposed in Beta (β) configuration (Vachon, 1975); external trichobothria in a marked proximal position with e_1 at the same level as d_5 . Patella with one internal and 4 dorsal trichobothria; trichobothria d_2 absent; 6-7 external trichobothria are suggested by the presence of fine setae; chelal trichobothria well observable: chela hand with Eb_{1-3} , Esb , Est , Et ; fixed finger with eb , esb , est , et , db , dt ; it well observable.

Type locality and horizon. – Myanmar (Burma), most certainly Kachin; precise locality not defined; Lower Cretaceous.

Patronym. – The specific name honours, Mr Thorsten Peters (Gelsenkirchen, Germany) who supported the present study.

Depository. – The type specimen is deposited in the collections of Mr Thorsten Peters (Gelsenkirchen, Germany).

Description

Coloration. – Yellow to slightly grey-yellow; carapace and tergites grey-yellow; metasomal segments yellow to brownish-yellow; telson dark yellow; aculeus reddish at the extremity; pedipalps dark yellow; legs yellow to grey-yellow. Ventral aspect yellow to grey-yellow; pecten yellow to slightly reddish-yellow.

Morphology. – Carapace elongated; anterior margin only slightly concave, almost straight; ocular tubercle anterior to the centre of the carapace; median eyes separated by less than one ocular diameter; three lateral eyes; carinae, granulations and furrows moderately to weakly marked. Sternum sub-pentagonal. Mesosomal tergites moderately to weakly granular, with one median carina and two very inconspicuous lateral carinae; VII with five moderately to strongly marked carinae. Pectines with 18-19 teeth; fulcra present but inconspicuous. Sternites weakly granular to smooth, with small almost slit-like spiracles. Metasomal segments I to IV not rounded, with 10-10-8-8 carinae; segment V slightly slender, with five carinae; dorsal carinae of segments I-IV with only minute spinoid granules; dorsal aspect of segments I to V weakly depressed; setation on all segments weakly marked. Telson with a long pear-shaped vesicle, more globular than in other species; moderately granular, with one ventral and four lateral carinae; absence of any subaculear tubercle; aculeus long and weakly curved; setation moderately marked. Cheliceral dentition similar to that of buthoids (Vachon, 1963), however a rather precise observation suggests that only a single basal tooth is present in both fixed and movable fingers, diverging from most extant species. Pedipalp femur pentacarinat; patella with 6-7 carinae; internal face of femur and patella with several strong spinoid granules. Chela moderately slender, not granular and with weak carinae. Setation of pedipalps almost absent. Trichobothriotaxy similar to type A (Vachon, 1974) of extant buthids: dorsal trichobothria of femur disposed in Beta (β) configuration (Vachon, 1975); for details refer to diagnosis. Tibial spurs absent from legs III and extremely reduced on IV; pedal spurs present on legs III and IV but reduced; tarsi with two series of very thin setae, with a total of 10-12 setae.

Morphometric values (mm) of the male holotype of *Betaburmesebuthus petersi* Lourenço sp. n.

– **Total length** 15.59 (including telson).

– **Carapace**

length 1.87,
anterior width 1.07,
posterior width 1.54.

– **Mesosoma** length 3.87.

– **Metasomal segments**

I: length 1.14, width 0.87;
II: length 1.27, depth 0.74;

III: length 1.41, depth 0.74;

IV: length 1.54, depth 0.74;

V: length 2.27, depth 0.67.

– **Telson** length 2.22.

– **Vesicle** depth 0.54.

– **Pedipalp**

femur length 1.61, width 0.41;
patella length 1.87, width 0.54;
chela length 2.94, width 0.47;
movable finger length 2.14.

Relationships. – The new species can be distinguished from the other species of the genus and in particular from *Betaburmesebuthus fleissneri* Lourenço, which also presents marked spinoid granules on the internal faces of femur and patella and a high number of teeth on pectines (20-21), by a number of characters:

- (i) a less elongated telson without a subaculear tooth but the presence of four lateral carinae,
- (ii) spiracles small but slit-like,
- (iii) trichobothrium e_2 of the femur absent
- (iv) tibial spurs absent from legs III and extremely reduced on IV.

Other species also studied in the present contribution

Family **Chaerilobuthidae** Lourenço & Beigel, 2011

Genus **Chaerilobuthus** Lourenço & Beigel, 2011

Chaerilobuthus gigantosternum Lourenço, 2016

(Fig. 16-17)

Chaerilobuthus gigantosternum Lourenço, 2016: Arthropoda Selecta, 25(1): 68-73.

The male specimen is a possible juvenile specimen, with 6.12 mm in total length. Sex: most certainly a male. The block of amber is of a very clear yellow and measures 22 x 15 x 1.5 mm. The structure of the prosoma carapace, with absence of eyes, and the morphology of a pecten clearly associates this scorpion to the genus *Chaerilobuthus*. The very important size of the sternum associates the specimen with *Chaerilobuthus gigantosternum* Lourenço, 2016.

Type locality and horizon. – Myanmar (Burma), probably Kachin; precise locality uncertain; Lower Cretaceous. Depository: The specimen is for the moment deposited in the collection of J. Velten.

Diagnosis. – General morphology shows similarities with that of other *Chaerilobuthus*. Carapace smooth with the possible absence of eyes; trichobothrial pattern related to the one previously observed for *Chaerilobuthus*; two ventral trichobothria on the chela. Pecten very small and bulk with 5 teeth. Fixed and movable fingers each with one series of small rounded granules; very inconspicuous accessory granules can be observed. Telson with a more or less bulbous vesicle aculeus long and moderately curved; base of aculeus not enlarged. Tibial spurs not observable, probably very reduced or absent.

Coloration. – Scorpion yellow to dark reddish-brown.

Morphology. – Carapace seems smooth; anterior margin almost straight. Carinae and furrows not observable. Eyes indistinct, probably absent; median eyes, if present, are so small that they cannot be quite well distinguished. Lateral eyes not observable. Sternum pentagonal and markedly big; width and high almost similar. Mesosomal tergites not well observable. Ventral aspect partially observable; one small but very bulk pecten with 5 teeth; sternites with more or less round spiracles. Metasomal segments I-II with 10 carinae; III-IV with 10 carinae; the precise numbers cannot be clearly counted; segment V with 5-7 carinae, not well observable; all carinae moderately marked; setation on segments I to V weakly marked. Telson with a more or less bulbous vesicle, not flattened dorso-ventrally; weakly granular to smooth; aculeus long and moderately curved. Cheliceral dentition with one basal tooth on fixed and

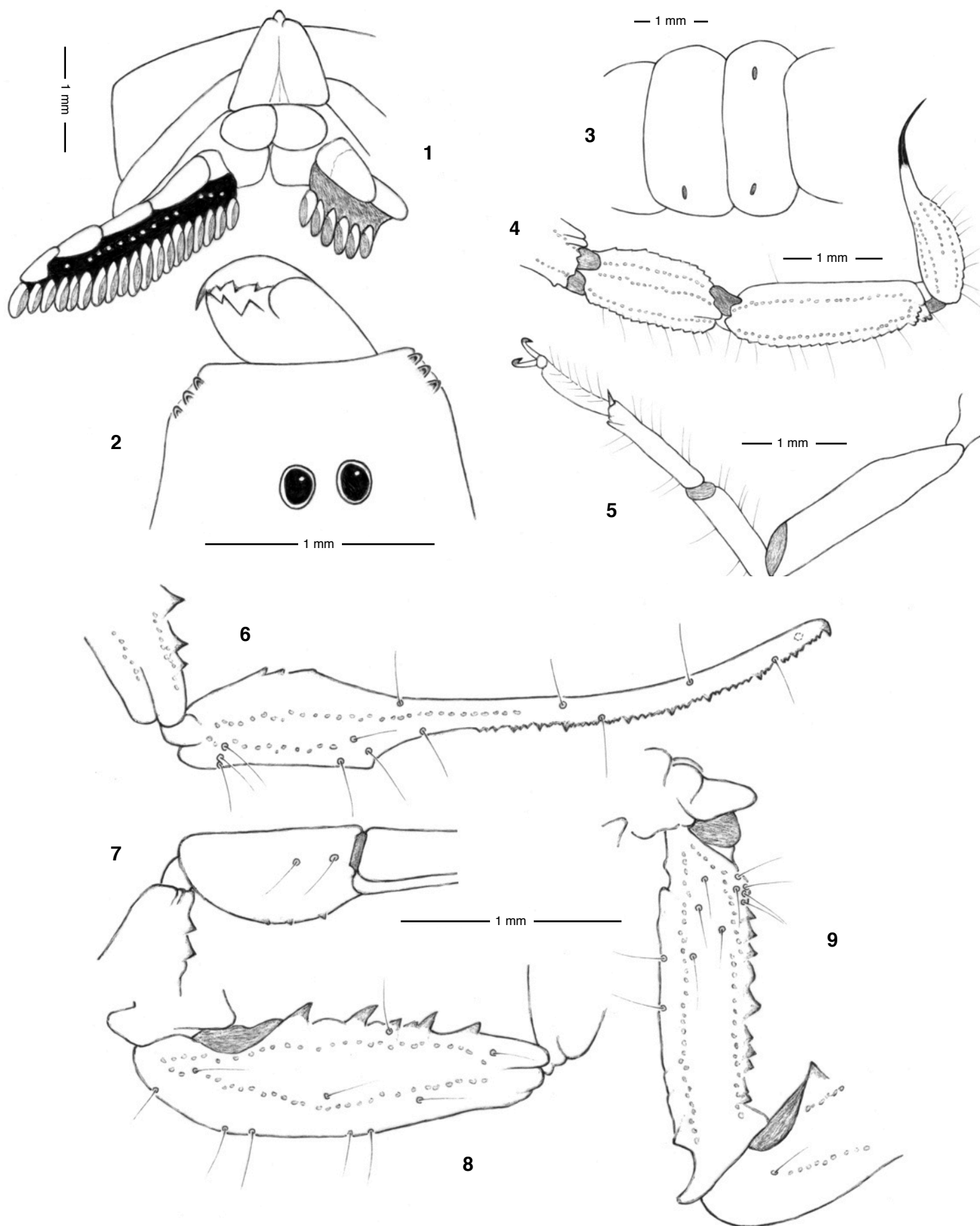


Fig. 1-9. *Betaburmesebuthus petersi* Lourenço **sp. n.** Male holotype.

1. Ventral aspect showing sternum, genital operculum and pectines. 2. Anterior portion of the carapace and chelicera in detail. 3. Sternites IV-VII with spiracles. 4. Metasomal segments IV-V and telson, lateral aspect. 5. Leg IV showing absence of tibial spurs. 6-9. Trichobothrial pattern. 6-7. Chela, dorso-external and ventral aspects. 8. Patella, dorsal aspect. 9. Femur, dorsal aspect.

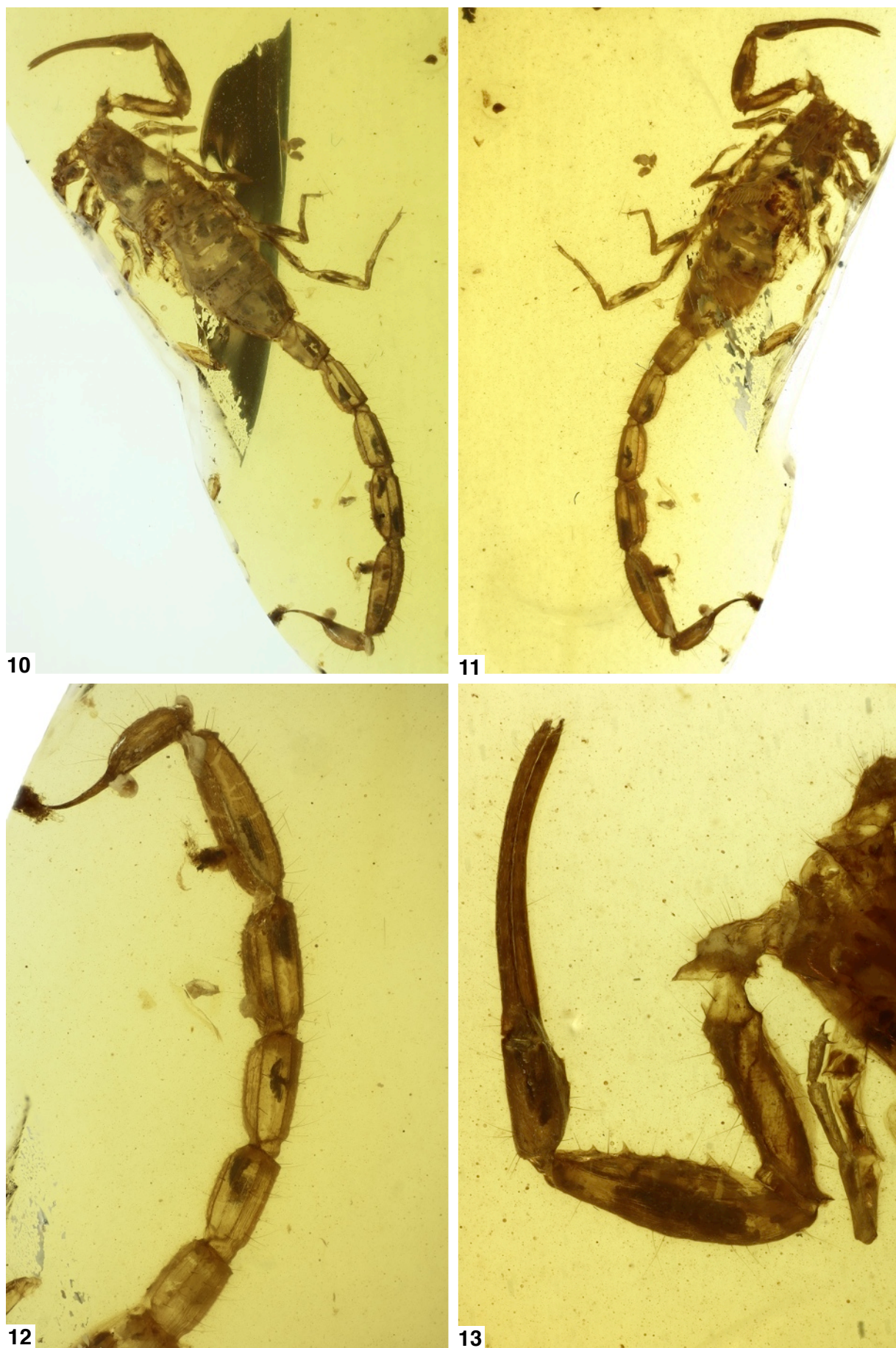


Fig. 10-13. *Betaburmesebuthus petersi* Lourenço sp. n. Male holotype.

10-11. Habitus, dorsal and ventral aspects. **12.** Metasoma and telson, lateral aspect. **13.** Right pedipalp, ventral aspect, showing granules and apophysis.

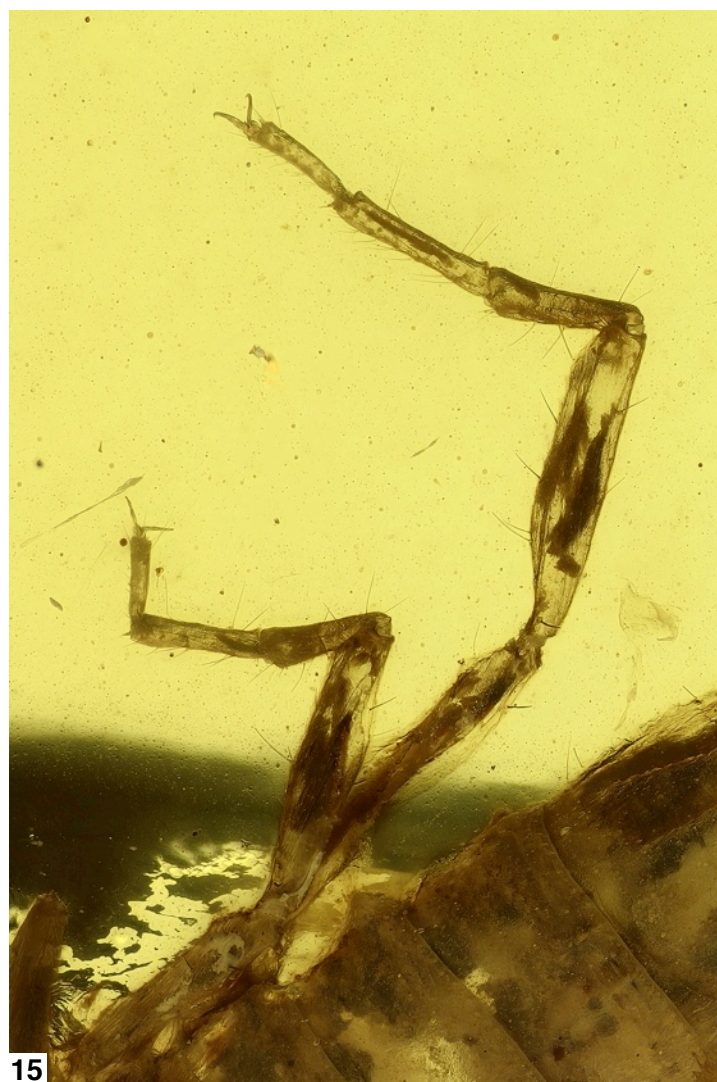
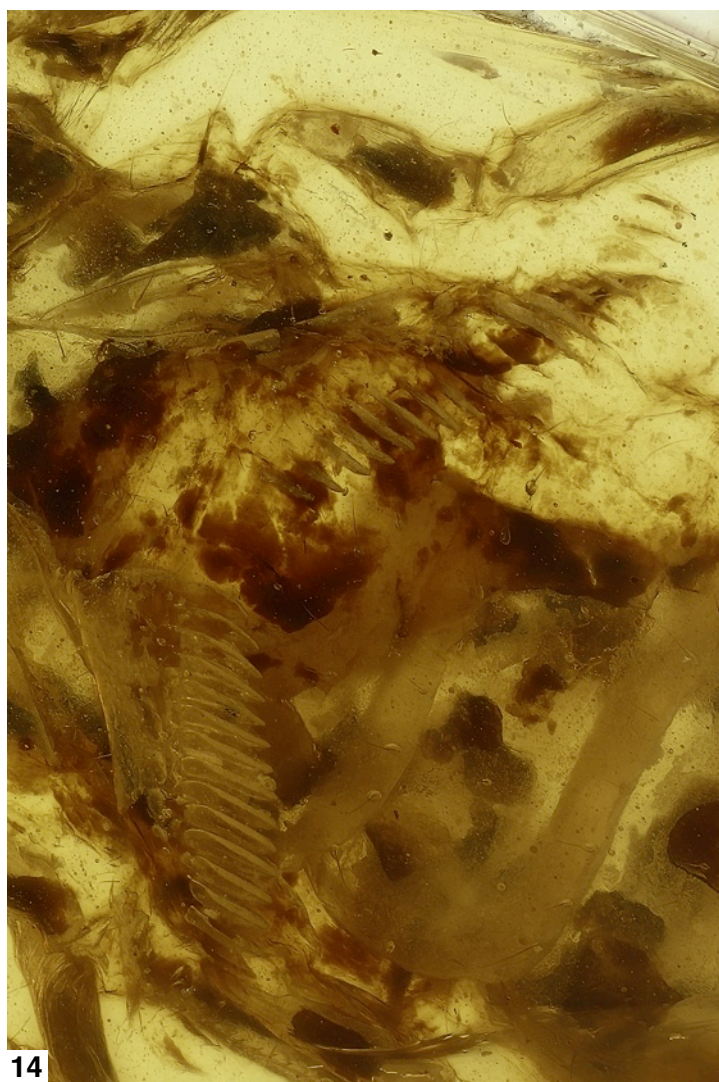


Fig. 14-15. *Betaburmesebuthus petersi* Lourenço sp. n. Male holotype.

14. Ventral aspect, showing pectines and genital operculum in detail. **15.** Legs III and IV in detail.

movable fingers. Pedipalp femur pentacarinat; no spinoid granules on internal face; patella with 5-6 carinae; internal face with only inconspicuous granules. Chela with moderately marked carinae; all faces almost smooth. Fixed and movable fingers with a longitudinal row of small, rounded granules, with inconspicuous accessory granules; extremity of fingers with one stronger spinoid granule. Trichobothriotaxy: trichobothrial pattern, similar to type C (Vachon, 1974). Legs: tibial spurs maybe present but extremely reduced.

Morphometric values (mm) of the male juvenile of *Chaerilobuthus gigantosternum*:

– **Total length** 6.12 (including telson).

– **Carapace**

length 0.81,
anterior width 0.47,
posterior width 0.67.

– **Mesosoma** length 1.74.

– **Metasomal segments**

I: length 0.27, width 0.34;
II: length 0.34, width 0.34;
III: length 0.41, width 0.27;
IV: length 0.54, width 0.27;
V: length 0.94, width 0.34.

– **Telson** length 1.07.

– **Vesicle** width 0.34.

– **Pedipalp**

femur length 0.94, width 0.27;
patella length 0.88, width 0.27;
chela length 1.27, width 0.27;
movable finger length 0.82.

This species appears to be moderately common within the global Burmite fauna (Lourenço & Velten, 2024b).

***Chaerilobuthus schwarzi* Lourenço, 2015**

(Fig. 18)

Specimen measuring 6 mm in total length, included in an elongated yellow piece of amber measuring 16 x 6 x 2.3 mm. Presence of numerous inclusions, notably vegetal debris and some insects, such as Coleoptera and larval forms. A very small pecten with 5 teeth, suggests a female. Absence of median eyes and possibly 1 or 2 very reduced lateral eyes.

Chaerilobuthus schwarzi appears to be a rather common species within the genus and within the global scorpion fauna found in Burmite, since other specimens have already been detected (Lourenço & Velten, 2023b, 2025b).

The specimen is, for the moment deposited in the collection of J. Velten.

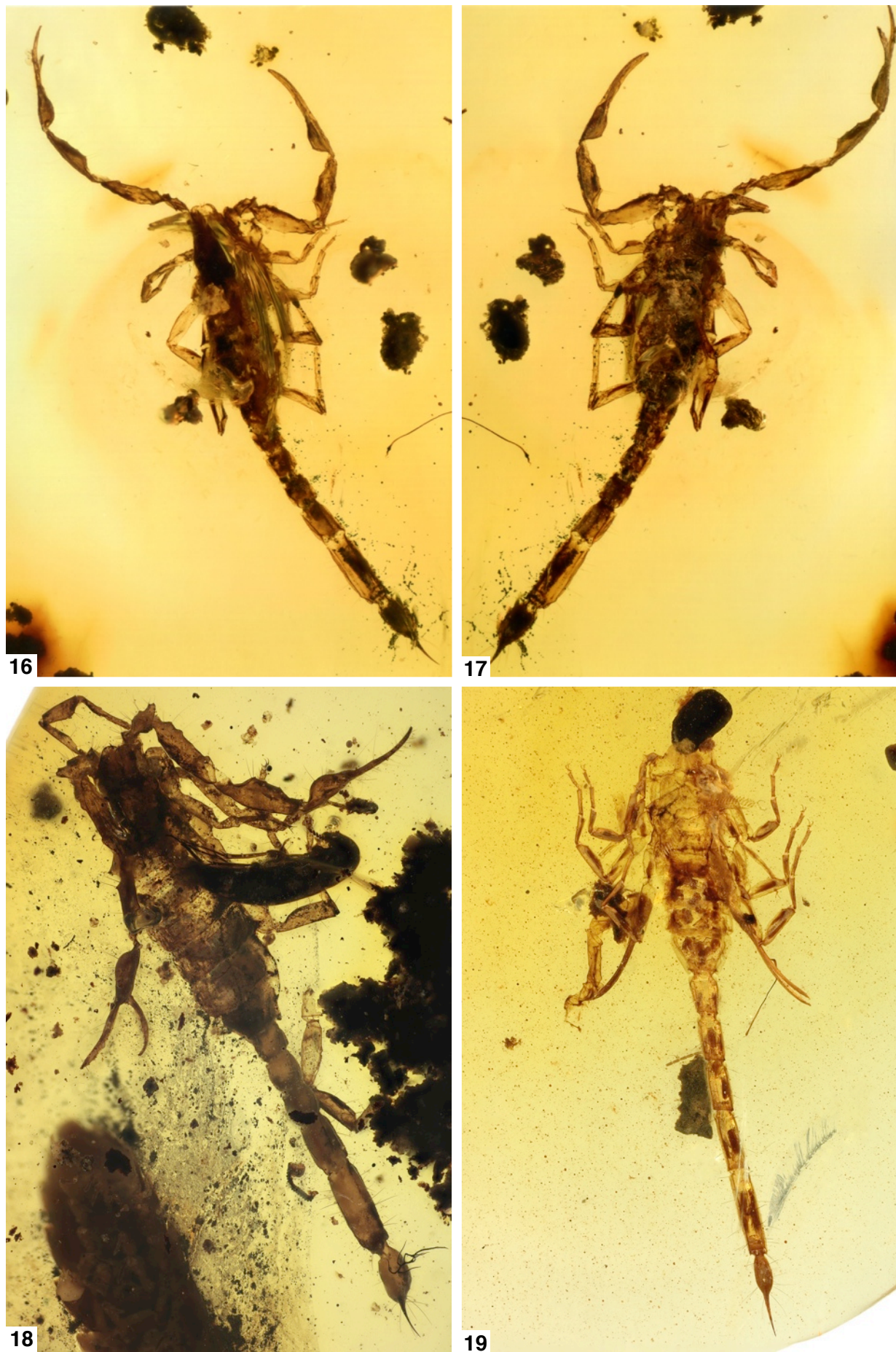


Fig. 16-17. *Chaerilobuthus gigantosternum* Lourenço, 2016. Male, habitus, dorsal and ventral aspects.

Fig. 18. *Chaerilobuthus schwarzi* Lourenço, 2015. Female, habitus, dorsal aspect.

Fig. 19. *Betaburmesebuthus bellus* Lourenço, 2016. Male habitus, ventral aspect.

Family **Palaeoburmesebuthidae** Lourenço, 2015

Genus **Betaburmesebuthus** Lourenço, 2015

Betaburmesebuthus bellus Lourenço, 2016

(Fig. 19)

An almost complete specimen, with 10.81 mm in total length trapped in a yellow piece of amber measuring 20.2 x 13.2 x 4.5 mm; presence of several inclusions, mainly vegetal debris, fragments of insects and one spider. General characteristics conforming to those of the genus *Betaburmesebuthus*, with the dorsal trichobothria of the femur in Beta (β) configuration. Other characters associate the specimen to the species *B. bellus*, in particular 17-18 teeth on pectines, a very smooth telson, internal faces of patella and femur of pedipalps with few minor spinoid granules and presence of tibial spurs on legs III and IV. The specimen is most certainly a pre-adult male. The specimen is, for the moment deposited in the collection of J. Velten.

Family **Ananteridae** Pocock, 1900

Genre **Archaeoananteroides** Lourenço, 2016

Archaeoananteroides sp.

A very incomplete specimen, in a rather dark reddish-yellow piece of amber measuring 21.5 x 14 x 3 mm; many inclusions, mostly dirty and vegetal debris. The specimen presents some characteristics of a buthoid element with approximately 14 teeth on pectines. It shows some affinities with the genus *Archaeoananteroides*. The specimen is, for the moment deposited in the collection of J. Velten.

Acknowledgements

We are most grateful to Alexander Beigel (Aachen, Germany) for the preparation of several of the photos which illustrates the present contribution.

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Authors contribution ¹

Publisher Correspondence. – WL

Writing the article. – WL

Description. – WL

Article proofreading. – WL

Bibliographic work. – WL

Material study. – WL & JV

Author of the figures. – WL (Fig. 1-9)

¹ WL = Wilson R. Lourenço – JV = Jürgen Velten

Résumé

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2025. – La remarquable variabilité du genre *Betaburmesebuthus* Lourenço, 2015 de l'ambre Crétacé de Birmanie ; commentaires sur la nouvelle confirmation de caractères morphologiques et description d'une nouvelle espèce (Scorpiones : Palaeoburmesebuthidae). *Faunitaxys*, 13(61): 1 – 7.

Encore une nouvelle espèce est décrite pour le genre *Betaburmesebuthus* Lourenço, 2015, confirmant ainsi que ce genre est probablement le plus riche en espèces parmi ceux trouvés dans l'ambre Crétacé du Myanmar. Le spécimen étudié est extrêmement bien préservé, autorisant ainsi l'observation de certains caractères, tels ceux de la dentition des chélicères, qui restaient encore faiblement caractérisés.

Mots-clés. – Scorpiones, *Betaburmesebuthus*, *petersi*, fossile, nouvelle espèce, description, diversité, Ambre Birman.

Faunitaxys

Volume 13, Numéro 61, Novembre 2025

SOMMAIRE

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Illustration de la couverture :

Betaburmesebuthus petersi Lourenço **sp. n.** in the stone; dorsal aspect.



Crédits:

Wilson R. Lourenço : Fig. 1-9.

Alexander Beigel : Fig. 10-19 & couverture.